



# NIGHTINGALE TIMES

*The On-line Newsletter for Wellow Parish Council*  
website: [www.wellowparish.org.uk](http://www.wellowparish.org.uk)

## West Wellow/ Canada Common

The Natural England condition assessment programme operates a routine six-yearly cycle, where they visit and assess each SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) unit against a number of criteria. West Wellow Common, Unit 164 of the New Forest SSSI was visited in June 2013 and met the required criteria for Favourable Condition. We had planned more gorse management works in January 2014, but due to the very wet conditions these works have been postponed until Autumn 2014.

### Retirement of Jean Kenny, Highway Sites Warden

A bouquet of flowers and other gifts were presented to Jean, by Lesley Weldon, to mark her retirement on 3 March 2014 from her position as Highways Sites Warden, on behalf of Wellow Parish Council.

We would like to thank Jean for the tremendous work she has done in the past twelve years in maintaining our licensed sites at Carlo's Corner, Romsey Road, Barnes Corner, Romsey Road, The Hollies, Lower Common Road/Gurnays Mead, Slab Lane Copse and land between Nightingale Close and Arun Way.



## Flooding in Wellow

The Parish Council has consulted the Hampshire County Council Flooding Team for guidance on flooding in Wellow and on how to prevent further flooding. It is very apparent that some landowners are not maintaining their ditches, whereby surface water is unable to freely flow away. Ditches should be cleared annually in the summer months and checked at regular intervals to remove any debris. Leaflets are available from Hampshire CC and can be downloaded from their website: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/flooding/watercourses.htm> . The two documents available are:

Wellow Parish Council, Parish Office, Village Hall, Buttons Lane, West Wellow, Hants SO51 6BR  
Tel: 01794 323275 Email: [wellowparish@btconnect.com](mailto:wellowparish@btconnect.com)

**April 2014**

- Flood Risk Management Guidance for Landowners (which includes 'Your responsibilities as a riparian landowner')
- Guide to Ordinary Watercourse Consenting (for those that wish to make changes to existing watercourses)

Two further HCC webpages showing more general help and contact details for flooding issues: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/winter-maintenance>, <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/flooding.htm>

Homeowners who have been affected by flooding in Hampshire are able to apply for up to £5,000 towards putting in measures to make their properties more resilient to the effects of flooding in the future. The Government's 'Repair and Renew' Grant is available to residents whose houses were affected by flooding between 1 December 2013 and 31 March 2014.

Applications can be made to Test Valley Borough from 1 April.

[www.testvalley.gov.uk/after-the-floods-advice-for-businesses-and-residents/after-floods-advice-support-residents](http://www.testvalley.gov.uk/after-the-floods-advice-for-businesses-and-residents/after-floods-advice-support-residents)

### **Consultation on Bus and Community Transport Services.**

In a review of bus and community transport services that receive financial support from the County Council, a consultation is underway to collect the views and preferences of both passengers and the wider community on how we can make economies that cause least problems for residents.

One of the proposals is to delay the start of bus passes from 9.00a.m. to 9.30.a.m. Cllr Roy Perry is keen to hear if there are any bus routes serving our villages where if that delay were adopted there would be no further bus until the afternoon. In which case there may be a possibility to make an exception for that route.

Cllr Perry is also keen to hear views on community transport such as Dial a Ride, Call and Go and Taxishare, all of which may give scope for innovative and flexible alternatives to buses in this area. Email: [roy.perry@hants.gov.uk](mailto:roy.perry@hants.gov.uk) The consultation is open until 31 May.

### **Wellow Under 5's Pre-School**

Wellow under Fives Pre-School has gone to the top of the class after a recent Ofsted inspection. The Pre-School was deemed to be outstanding after previously being graded as satisfactory. The co-Managers Julie Jager and Kate Hunt along with the staffing team have worked hard to improve standards at the Pre-School and are all very proud of the outcome.

### **Dog Fouling**

It has come to the notice of the Parish Council that some dog owners are not clearing up after their dogs on pavements and in the Recreation Ground. Dog owners are respectfully reminded to bag and bin dog waste, red dog bins are provided in the Recreation Ground (three bins), Monkeys Jump Car Park, Canada Common Car Park opposite Plantation Road and Romsey Road opposite Barnes Close at start of Footpath 24 to Foxes Lane, otherwise please take home and dispose in your black bin.

### **Wellow Parish Council**

#### **Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 - 7.00pm, Wellow Village Hall**

This event gives residents an opportunity to discuss Parish matters, learn what Parish Council activities have taken place over the last year and meet Parish, Borough and County Councillors. There will also be representatives and displays from the community, including Community First Responders, Community Wildlife Project, Wellow Help and Lunch Club, Football, Tennis and Cricket Clubs. Refreshments will be provided.

Message from the Chair, Dr Peter Chandler.

Over recent months there has been some rather sustained and unfair criticism directed towards individual Parish Councillors and the Parish Council as a whole. I would thus like to take this opportunity to clarify a few of the more important issues.

While it is true that most of us have been co-opted onto the Council this was because only four people put their names forward for the eleven vacancies at the last election in 2011. The four were thus elected un-opposed and the rest of us have been co-opted over the years to provide a full complement of 11. The next election will be on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015 and so we all need to start persuading people to stand. If more than 11 step forward then we can hold an election for these positions. I have been on the Parish Council for two years now and so have come to realise that we are "easy targets". In recent months some quite outrageous claims have been made at Parish meetings, in written complaints and in letters to local papers. These include complaints about voting, public access, planning, finances and the replacement of the pavilion on the recreation ground. In response I would like to explain how each of these issues is actually dealt with by us.

At Council meetings proposals are made and voted on. They pass or fail by a majority show of hands. We are not obliged to record how individual Councillors voted. Generally, there is really no need and in any case, we are all bound by "collective responsibility" and so it is incumbent on all Councillors to support Council Policies. However, voting will be recorded if it is requested by a councillor at the time of the debate. Councillors who actively campaign against Council Policy are in breach of the Code of Conduct and Standing Orders that they signed up to on appointment.

As far as public access is concerned members of the public are welcome to attend all of our monthly meetings. At the beginning of each meeting 15 minutes is allocated to allow parishioners to raise any issues they like. They must keep within a two minute time slot. A claim made in a letter to the Advertiser that I, as Chair, had unilaterally revoked this policy is utter nonsense. In fact this facility is written into our Standing Orders.

Another piece of mis-information is about the Council's role in planning applications. As a Council we look at all applications and put forward our views as well as those of parishioners, on whether or not a new development fits in with the Village Plan and is in keeping with existing developments. It is TVBC who actually grant permission not us! Similarly, the claim of mis-management and/or secrecy surrounding our finances is totally untrue. We operate an open book and produce audited accounts. We present an overview of our finances at the Annual Parish meeting and copies of all our monthly statements are available to the public from our Parish Office. Our Clerk, Lesley Weldon, is our Financial Officer.

Finally, there has been a lot of gossip spread about our plans to replace the crumbling pavilion on the Recreation Ground. The actual position on this is very clear and is set out in detail below.

While parishioners have an absolute right to question and hold their Parish Council to account, the recent "campaign" launched against both individual Councillors and the Council as a whole has, in my opinion, crossed the line. There have been so many deliberate mis-representations of the way Wellow Parish Council operates that I would ask those involved to reflect on the damage they are doing both to the standing of the Parish Council and the work we are carrying out on behalf of the parishioners of Wellow. Perhaps this type of harassment goes some way to explain why only four people stood at the last election?

### The Replacement Pavilion

The existing building was erected in 1935 and has far exceeded its useful life. This was recognised some time ago but was confirmed by a recent structural report (2012) carried out on behalf of the Council. It needs to be replaced now! A number of parishioners have

questioned whether or not the Parish Council have a mandate to carry out this work. Actually we do and it is set out in "Parish Plan for Wellow Hampshire 2010". Extract Page 11:

**ACTION**

The Parish Council to

- Complete their plans for the recreation ground in Lower Common Road, including the replacement of the pavilion and playground, so as to create a focal point for the village.
- Examine the feasibility of meeting some of the sporting and leisure wishes as expressed by residents through the survey.

Dr Chandler has since resigned as Chairman and a Councillor. The Council, thank Peter for his committed service to the Parish and wish him all the best in his retirement and for the future.

**Meetings**

All meetings of Wellow Parish Council are open to the public. Time is provided at the start of each Full Council meeting for public participation where residents can raise any concern or matter relating to the Parish.

**Meetings Dates:** 12<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (Planning 6.45 pm, Full Council AGM 7.15 pm)  
2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014 (Planning 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm)  
7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 (Planning 6.45 pm, Full Council 7.15 pm)

**Newsletter**

If you would like comment on and/or to contribute to the newsletter, please let the Clerk, Mrs Lesley Weldon know. You can contact her at the office (10am to 12.00pm Tues, Weds, Thurs), through the website, email or telephone (details below).

**Provide the Clerk with your email address and receive the newsletters by email!!**